

**MINUTES OF THE  
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL  
May 13, 2015  
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA  
10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Chairman Jimmy Burnsed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Thomas, Jimmy Burnsed, Tom Ratcliffe, Craig Root, Linda Barker, Margaret Evans, Jimmy Starline, Matthew Barrow, Walter Gibson, Allen Brown, Priscilla D. Thomas, Reggie Loper, Dwight Gordon, Pat Bazemore, Dan Coty, Harold Fowler, David Boland, Herb Jones and Chris Blaine.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Charles Wilson, Donald Lovette, Edna Jackson, Sean Register, Julie Martin, William Miller, Ken Lee, Shaw McVeigh, John Morrissey, Chap Bennett, Jan Moore, Kelly Spratt, Hugh Hodge, Dale Provenzano, J.C. Warren and Gwendolyn Davis.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

**GUESTS:** Mayor Mary Warnell and Dustin Peebles, City of Pembroke; Clay Mobley, GA Conservancy; Nathaniel Thomas, Chatham; Stephanie Dammen-Morrell, Hussey Gay Bell; Sandra Rayson, Woodbine; Joey Brown, Liberty County and Joe Parker, Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Allen Burns, Executive Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; William Compton & Meizi Wolven, Grant Specialists; Lupita McClenning, Planning & Government Services Director; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Stephen Brown, GIS Analyst/Planner; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Pamela Rogers, Contracts Manager and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Jim Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Walter Gibson  
**Second:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:** *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Donald J. Masisak, Transportation Director, provided an overview of the recommended changes for transit service. We recommend that the Call Center staff be transferred to our existing Third Party Operator (TPO) and be on their payroll. We will lease the TPO space and technology, which will allow for a better utilization of funds. The TPO will also be responsible for total fare box amounts as determined by GDOT 5311 contract budget, and the counties will be invoiced monthly for the cost of insurance and maintenance of buses assigned to their county. If approved, this transition will become effective June 1, 2015.

There was a brief discussion. Executive Director Burns stated he had met with all of the counties, except Chatham County; however, they had been sent information. It was noted that on Item #1.3 of the Service Agreement the termination date should reflect 2016 and not 2015. Mr. Masisak explained that by shifting these expenses we will be able to create more billable expenses to GDOT by capturing allowable in-kind expenses and can better leverage the dollars. Increased marketing will take place with dollars from the VTLCI program and we are continuing to work on Purchase of Service Contracts. Costs will be tracked monthly so we will know how well the changes are working.

A motion was made to accept the changes to the transportation program as presented, with the noted date change on the agreement.

**Motion:** Dan Coty  
**Second:** Mayor Harold Fowler  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Resolution to Transmit Stakeholder Plan and Regional Assessment to DCA** – (See attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Ms. Lupita McClenning, Director of Planning explained this is another step in the process of updating the Regional Plan. Members were urged to complete the survey on MetroQuest if they haven't already. Part of the assessment is amending the Plan to adopt guiding principles for resiliency. It is hoped that the Plan Update will be ready to transmit to DCA by October instead of November.

**Motion:** Chris Blaine  
**Second:** Dr. Priscilla Thomas  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Authorizing Resolution for filing Application with GDOT under Section 5304** – (See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Ms. Lupita McClenning, stated that GDOT is changing the way that organizations can receive funding and that the Planning Department would be submitting a proposal for a project that would work with Don on rural transit to help in identifying the gaps and promoting the project. Approval of this resolution authorizes Allen to submit the application on behalf of the CRC. A motion was made to approve the authorizing Resolution as presented.

**Motion:** Commissioner Walter Gibson  
**Second:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of CADD Board Reappointments:** (See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Chairman Jim Thomas stated the following were being recommended for reappointments: Keith Crusan (Glynn County) and Ed Andrews (Camden County). A motion was made to approve the reappointments as presented.

**Motion:** Chairman Jimmy Burnsed  
**Second:** Herb Jones  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Proclamation Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War** (See Attachment 5, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Chairman Thomas referred members to the handout and noted that Proclamation was misspelled. A motion was made to approve the Proclamation with the correction.

**Motion:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Second:** Commissioner Walter Gibson  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Mr. Ron Elliott, Public Affairs, Fort Stewart, stated that a ceremony was being held on June 19<sup>th</sup> and the proclamation, along with others, would be on display at the ceremony.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

(Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Ann Purcell's presentation was moved up on the agenda)

**HB140** – Ms. Ann Purcell, Georgia Transportation Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, provided an overview of the DRiVE ALERT ARRIVE ALiVE Campaign. This campaign calls attention to the increasing and preventable fatalities on Georgia's roads and educates drivers about specific changes they can make in their driving behavior to save their lives.

Regarding federal funding, Ms. Purcell stated that unless something changes before May 31<sup>st</sup> we'll be getting no money. They are hearing that the 70% of what they normally receive will be expended until October 1<sup>st</sup> and that they hope to come up with a long-range plan before then. GDOT currently has 161 projects ready to go, but no funding to do them. HB 170, while not perfect, is a start to get additional dollars for projects locally. The three regions that passed TIA are surviving much better than those who did not. With HB 170, there are two options: (1) a TSPLOST can be done regionally (with all counties agreeing to participate) or (2) a county by county basis. The counties and cities need to decide in the next few months which direction they want to take. With the second option, nothing official can happen until January 1, 2017; however, the planning can begin now. Ms. Purcell believes there will be some tweaking to HB 170 next year.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. there will be a groundbreaking for the work to begin on the new welcome center on I-95 southbound in Chatham County.

**Savannah Harbor and Expansion Project (SHEP)** – *(See Attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Dr. Stephen Ramos, College of Environment + Design, University of Georgia, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the SHEP. This project is a two-year grant funded by the Georgia SeaGrant program. The project team met with local planners and GIS technicians at the September 16<sup>th</sup> CRC Practicum and received good feedback on how people are thinking about the impact of this project. SHEP is projected to have a regional impact on transportation, economic development, and it's expected that the Brunswick port will see more traffic. The group is currently looking at parcel attribute information – areas that are actively being used as warehouses or are zoned for warehouses – these areas will have an increase in traffic; land-use studies initiatives, the Freeport Clause, and Coastal Air Pollution from the increase in tractor trailer traffic. The project should be finished around February 2016 and they will get the information to Lupita. Data from this study will be used to update the Coastal Regional Plan.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**DRI Reports:** None to report this month.

**Project Status Reports** - *(See Attachments 7, 8, 9, and 10 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

**CADDA Report:** No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 11, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Spoke at the Effingham County Rotary last month. If you ever need a speaker, just let me know.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hunter Airfield.
- Requested all Vietnam era vets to raise their hand for recognition; applauded by council members.

- David Boland attended his first GARC meeting this month at the Annual GARC Economic Development Conference at Lake Lanier. The GARC's primary project this year is the Statewide Geographic Information Officer. We have entered into a contract with the University of Indiana for the development of conversion software. The interview process has started for the GIO position. This project is the result of funding received from a grant written by Bill Compton of the CRC.
- Worked with Liberty County during their two-day retreat, which was very successful. If your county is interested in doing this, our staff is available to assist.
- Attended the Aging Services Advisory Council this past month.
- Have had a couple of meetings with Kinder Morgan.
- The CRC hosted the Coastal Advisory Committee meeting this month and we hope we can continue to do so.
- The GARC hosted a booth at the ACCG meeting in Savannah and will have a booth at the GMA Savannah meeting in June.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Thanked Ms. Purcell and Dr. Ramos for their timely presentations. HB 170 and transportation is critical to our future; with the harbor expansion those counties south and west will have problems as well.
- Chairman Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hunter Airfield; without them we would have a harder time keeping Fort Stewart.
- On Friday morning, at the Mid Coast Regional Airport at Wright Army Airfield, Georgia Power will have a groundbreaking for a solar project.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m., with lunch following.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**